

IDAHO TEACHERS RECEIVE \$50,000 IN ADDITIONAL GRANTS FROM QWESTTO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE USES OF TECHNOLOGY

Teachers Must Apply for New Qwest Foundation Grants by Nov. 18

BOISE, Idaho, Oct. 17, 2005 – The Qwest Foundation and the Idaho Department of Education announced today that the Qwest Foundation will provide \$50,000 to teachers who have developed creative ways to use technology to improve student learning.

This spring, 13 Idaho teachers from across Idaho also received a total of \$50,000 to fund a variety of projects. Nov. 18 is the deadline for Idaho K-12 public school teachers to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 each. Applicants will be asked to detail the goals of their project, as well as the hardware and software needed. Application information is available on the Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.sde.state.id.us/bots/>. "We are pleased to be able to continue this opportunity for teachers through our partnership with the Qwest Foundation," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Marilyn Howard. "In these times of tight education budgets, this provides a chance to support and highlight specific examples of how technology can be used to improve the outcome of the classroom experience."

The purpose of the Qwest Foundation grant is to recognize Idaho K-12 public school teachers who are using technology in the classroom in new and innovative ways to improve student performance, and to share this information so that others can do the same. From global positioning systems and PDAs to heart monitors and audio visual equipment, teachers from all over Idaho have put the Qwest Foundation grant money to good use this year. "Qwest is committed to making a positive difference in the communities where customers live and work, and we are proud to invest in Idaho teachers and children," said Jim Schmit, Qwest president for Idaho. "We're excited to partner with the Idaho Department of Education again and create additional resources for teachers using technology to provide meaningful learning experiences for their students." Teachers who are awarded a Qwest Foundation grant will be videotaped and photographed teaching a technology-based lesson. Lessons identified as "best practices" will be shared with Idaho K-12 teachers.

About the Qwest Foundation: The Qwest Foundation's core principle is that investing in people and communities provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards grants to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on K-12 education and economic development. The Qwest Foundation's philosophy is to help build strong communities through investing in people and the places where they live and work. For more information, contact www.qwest.com/foundation.

Media Contacts: Qwest Contact Melissa Reffel 303-896-3011 Melissa.Reffel@qwest.com
Department of Education Contact Allison Westfall 208-332-6812 ALWestfall@sde.idaho.gov